

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

PROUDLY PRESENTS



WIFE after DEATH

A COMEDY BY
ERIC CHAPPELL
(RISING DAMP,
ONLY WHEN I LAUGH)



7TH, 8TH and 9TH
NOVEMBER
FARINGDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Wife After Death

A Comedy by Eric Chappell

Following the sudden death of comedian and national treasure Dave Thursby, his family, friends and colleagues gather on the day of his funeral to pay their respects. His script writer and agent are joined by an unexpected guest who sets off a chain of surprising events.

Act 2 opens three weeks later for the spreading of the ashes, where Dave, even from beyond the crematorium, seems to be having the last laugh.

Eric Chappell is a well-known TV scriptwriter and playwright. He is best known for the TV series *Rising Damp* and *Only When I Laugh*.

The first of his many plays (currently 25) was *The Banana Box*, staged at the Apollo Theatre in 1973. This was the basis for *Rising Damp*, and three of the original cast members (Leonard Rossiter, Francis de la Tour and Don Warrington) went on to star in the TV series.

Only When I Laugh, on the other hand, went from being a TV series starring Peter Bowles and James Bolam to a successful play entitled *It Can Damage Your Health*.

The action of *Wife After Death* takes place in Laura Thursby's spacious sitting room.

ACT 1 – An afternoon in summer

ACT 2 - Three weeks later

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts 1 and 2 when the bar will be open and the raffle will be drawn.

Cast in order of appearance:

Laura Thursby	Amanda Linstead
Vi Barrett	Carolyn Taylor
Harvey Barrett	Andy Pritchard
Kevin Prewitt	Richard Lock
Jayne Prewitt	Sandra Keen
Kay	Katie Dyet

Directed by **Gary Field** assisted by **Jo Webster**

Production Team

Producer:	Richard Palacio
Stage Manager	Jeff Barry
Lighting setup	Ian Chandler
Sound and Light desk	Gary Bates, Paul and Tim Mountford-Lister
Set Design	Jo Webster
Set construction	Jeff Barry, Peter Webster, Alan Merrick, Ron McLaughlin, Richard Palacio, Richard Lock, Paul Mountford-Lister
Props	Debbie Lock, Carole Tappenden, Suzie Hanks
Continuity	Debbie Lock
Publicity	Adrian Wells, Fiona Merrick
Programmes	Dave Headey
Bar	Shela Rowan, Alan Taylor
Front of House	Richard Palacio, Denise Monk, Mary Mountford-Lister, Fiona Merrick, Ian & Joan Lee, Gary & Lynda Bates, Carole Tappenden, Peter Webster

Cast Profiles

Amanda Linstead (Laura)

Amanda trained in dance and drama in London, and worked professionally until she got married. Previous productions include the title role in **Daisy Pulls it Off**, and major parts in **Cabaret**, **Candleford**, **The Odd Couple** and last year's **Present Laughter**. She is very happy to be performing again with FDS and is looking forward to being part of further productions.



Carolyn Taylor (Vi)

Carolyn has directed and appeared in many productions for FDS and other companies, including a number of open air Shakespeare productions, most recently **A Midsummer Night's Dream** this year. Other highlights include playing Aunt Ada Doom in **Cold Comfort Farm** (where she "saw something narsty in the woodshed!"). To her list of many talents she can add that of playwright, being the author of **Beauty and the Beast** in 2009.



Andy Pritchard (Harvey)

This is Andy's second role with FDS (he was a memorable Bottom in this summer's **Midsummer Night's Dream**), though for many years he has been a leading player with the Cotswold Arcadians and Meysey Players. Andy is also a member of the Act IV Theatre, where he took the title role in **Raffles – One Heart and Mind**, and a founder member of the Lechlade Mummerys as well as having done commercial and TV work.



Richard Lock (Kevin)

Richard has been involved with FDS for many years and is most often found playing in the panto band, or working backstage although his misspent youth included many stage appearances in pantomimes and musicals.. He once made only occasional forays onto the stage for FDS, but this is his second appearance in two years – he was last seen as Henry in **Present Laughter**.



Sandra Keen (Jayne)

Sandra has been acting for twelve years, starting with a production of **Cinderella**, and has since performed a variety of roles including Lady Sneerwell in Sheridan's **School for Scandal**. This is her sixth appearance for FDS and we also saw her in **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **The Cherry Orchard**, **I Thought I Heard a Rustling** and **The Odd Couple**.



Katie Dyet (Kay)

Katie has appeared many times in panto, most recently as half of the horse Magnesia in **Jack and the Beanstalk**, but has taken many roles in plays as well. In one role she didn't say a word, yet received critical acclaim – as the mute Loony Joe in **Candleford** - and was most recently on stage as Mickey in **The Odd Couple** and Grace in **London Suite**.



Gary Field (Director)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and although he first worked backstage it wasn't long before he took his first role as the cynical manservant Yasha in **The Cherry Orchard**. He has appeared in **Cold Comfort Farm**, *Outside Edge*, and *Candleford*, and taken several roles in pantomime. This is the second play Gary has directed for FDS, his first being **I Thought I heard a Rustling** in 2009.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- and **The Nut Tree** for ticket sales

Our grateful thanks also to **Co-operative Funeral Care**, Cardinal House, 5 Park Rd, Faringdon for the loan of the coffin.

Faringdon Dramatic Society Past Productions

1949	The Ghost Train Busman's Honeymoon		Post Horn Gallop The Importance of Being Earnest
1950	A Quiet Weekend Distinguished Gathering	1967	The Winslow Boy Rookery Nook
1951	When We Are Married The Chiltern Hundreds Who Lies There	1968	Someone Waiting Thark
1952	The Happiest Days of Your Life	1969	Pools Paradise Dial 'M' For Murder Blithe Spirit
1953	A Wagonload of Monkeys Beggar My Neighbour The Late Christopher Bean	1970	The Touch of Fear I'll Get My Man Something to Hide
1954	See How They Run A Lady Mislaid	1971	Tons of Money The Bride and the Bachelor Dead on Nine
1955	The Shop at Sly Corner Night Was Our Friend	1972	A Basinful of the Briny
1956	Mystery At Greenfingers Miranda And This Was Odd	1974	Beside the Seaside
1957	Haul For The Shore Blithe Spirit	1975	The Brides of March
1958	Night Must Fall Queen Elizabeth Slept Here Love in a Mist	1978	Post Horn Gallop
1959	Madam Tic-Tac Sailor Beware Murder on the Nile	1979	A Murder Has Been Arranged Doctor In The House
1960	The Blue Goose Beside the Seaside Breath of Spring	1980	Night Must Fall The Brides of March
1961	A Play for Ronnie The Paragon Murder at the Vicarage	1981	House by the Lake Mother Figure Clara's On The Curtain Time Murderer Please
1962	Look Out For The Catch The Lovebirds	1982	Rookery Nook Busybody The Laboratory Green for Danger
1963	When We Are Married Russian Salad/Family Album	1983	Breath of Spring Something to Hide Fool's Paradise
1964	An Inspector Calls Brush With a Body Running Riot	1984	Babes in the Wood Cat on the Fiddle Murder in Company
1965	The Poltergeist The Brides of March The Geese Are Getting Fat	1985	The Madam None the Wiser Portrait of a Murder
1966	Rock-a-Bye Sailor	1986	Tomb With a View The Murder of Maria Marten Gosforth's Fete

	Funeral Tea	2000	Arthur's Adventure
	Albert		Old Time Music Hall
1987	Sleeping Beauty		Hell and High Water
	Local Affairs	2001	Cinderella
	Brush With a Body		The Crucible
1988	Jack and the Beanstalk		Daisy Pulls It Off
	After Magritte	2002	Babes In The Wood
	Between Mouthfuls		Brush Up Your Shakespeare
	Nasty Things, Murders		Cabaret
	Outside Edge	2003	The Wind in the Willows
1989	Cinderella		Much Ado About Nothing
	Murder for the Asking		Separate Tables
	Lord Arthur Saville's Crime	2004	How Clarence Earned His Wings
1990	Aladdin		Arsenic and Old Lace
	Time and the Conways		Shakers
	Ten Times Table		Dancing at Lughnasa
1991	The Wind in the Willows	2005	Snow White
	Move Over Mrs Markham		Idle Chatter
	Stepping Out		Educating Rita
1992	Babes In The Wood	2006	Dreamers
	Farndale Murder Mystery		The Cherry Orchard
	Time To Kill		Noises Off
1993	Sinbad the Sailor	2007	Pirates of the Faribbean
	Black Comedy		The Importance of being Earnest
	Blithe Spirit		(with GLT) Lend me a Tenor
1994	The Wizard of Oz	2008	Peter Panto
	Cold Comfort Farm		Outside Edge
	The Woman in White		Candleford
1995	Peter Panto	2009	Beauty and the Beast
	The Good Old Days		I Thought I heard a Rustling
	Visiting Hour		Our Town
1996	Dick Turpin	2010	Aladdin
	Time of My Life		Cold Comfort Farm
	Witness for the Prosecution		Heroes
1997	Sleeping Beauty	2011	Dick Whittington
	Blood Brothers		The Odd Couple
	Pygmalion		London Suite
1998	The Pied Piper	2012	Cinderella
	Lark Rise		Best of British
	Habeas Corpus		Present Laughter
1999	Alice in Wonderland	2013	Jack and the Beanstalk
	Confusions		A Midsummer Night's Dream
	Oh What A Lovely War		Wife After Death

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed sixty-five years ago, in 1948.

Since then it has mounted around 170 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for

Heroes in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'.

Our current membership is about 50, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Our next production will be **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**, a pantomime by Dave Buchanan, directed by Helen Thrower. Full details are on the web site. Performances are here in the Junior School on:

Friday 24th January - 7.30 pm

Saturday 25th January - matinee 2.00 pm and evening 7.30 pm

Friday 31st January - 7.30 pm

Saturday 1st February - matinee 2.00 pm and evening 7.30 pm

